

I CLAIM

1. A method of providing for digital data storage of a stream of image data and pattern recognition of at least one external pattern on the stream of image data comprising the steps of:

compressing a stream of digital image data using at least a first thread to obtain an initially compressed stream of digital image data and performing pattern recognition using the at least one external pattern and at least a second thread to attempt to contain matches, the first and second threads being processing using a processing system;

transmitting the initially compressed stream of digital image data to another processing system; and

further compressing the initially compressed stream of digital image data using at least a third thread to obtain a further compressed stream of digital image data and performing pattern recognition of the at least one external pattern using at least a fourth thread and an initially compressed external pattern corresponding to the external pattern to attempt to contain matches, the third and fourth threads being processed using the another processing system.